

APPLICANT(S): LINIAL, Michal et al.
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REMARKS

Claims 2-23, 27-28 are pending in the application. Claims 2-23, 27-28 have been rejected. Claims 2-8, 10, 12-16, 21 and 27 have been amended.

Claims 19, 20, 22 and 28 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. In making this cancellation without prejudice, Applicants reserve all rights in these claims to file divisional and/or continuation patent applications.

New claim 29 has been added. Support for claim 29 can be found on page 16, lines 11-14 and Figures 4, 5 and 7.

Applicants respectfully assert that the amendments to the claims and the new claim add no new matter.

An abstract of the invention is presented in Appnedix 1.

Claim Objections

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 2, 16, 27-28 because of alleged informalities. Claims 2, 16, and 27 have been amended, rendering the objection moot. Claim 28 has been cancelled. Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of the objection.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. In response, the Applicant cancelled claim 28.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 2-13, 19-22 and 27-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph because the specification, while being enabling for identifying

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nucleic acid and amino acid sequences that are similar, does not reasonably provide enablement for non-sequence molecules. In response, the Applicant amended claim 2 to cover amino-acids and nucleic acid molecules, canceled claims 19, 20 and 22, and amended claim 21, since immunoglobulines are proteins which are encoded by nucleic acid sequence, and comprise of amino acids.

In addition, the Examiner rejected claims 2-23 and 27-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 2-13, and 27 were alleged lack antecedent basis. Applicants have amended claims 4-8 and 10, 12 and 13 rendering the rejection moot

The Examiner alleged claims 2, 27 and 28 are confusing with respect to the scope of what's claimed. Applicants have amended the claims to referring to nucleic acid and amino-acids having similar sequence, defining the position of the molecule in the hierarchical organization and defining the input of sequence information into the methods.

Moreover, the Examiner alleged that, Part a (iv) and (v) and (vi) of claims 2 and 27 were also unclear. In response, the Applicants amended the claims to clarifying the method step for identifying groups, determining the relationship between related clusters, and analyzing the groups. Support for the amendments can be found in page 10 line 24, and page 11, second paragraph.

Accordingly, Applicants submit the amended claims are clear, and request withdrawn of the rejection.

The Examiner alleged Claim 3 is unclear with respect to the "connection is established". Applicants have amended claim 3 defining the connection as merge between the clusters. Accordingly, Applicants submit the amended claim is clear, and request withdrawn of the rejection.

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It is respectfully asserted that the foregoing amendments merely address matters of form and do not change the scope of the claimed invention.

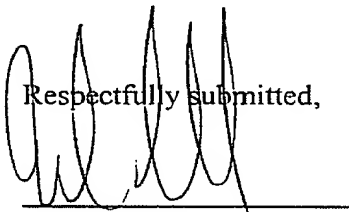
Applicants respectfully assert that these amendments render claims 2-18, 21, 23 and 27 proper under 35 USC 112 and request that the rejections be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the pending claims are deemed to be allowable. Their favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any question or comment as to the form, content or entry of this Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below. Similarly, if there are any further issues yet to be resolved to advance the prosecution of this application to issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned counsel.

Please charge any fees associated with this paper to deposit account No. 50-3355.

Respectfully submitted,



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